



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

NATIONAL SOUND PRESERVATION PLAN QUOTES

Tim Brooks, President, Association for Recorded Sound Collections

“ARSC, which has long been dedicated to preservation of and access to our audio heritage, applauds the announcement by the Library of Congress of the National Recording Preservation Plan. We believe this bold new effort represents a major breakthrough in efforts to secure for posterity historical audio recordings, and we will do everything we can to help it succeed. The voices of so many who did so much to fashion this country and its culture over the past one hundred-plus years can be, and should be heard.”

Bob Edwards, Radio Talk Show Host

“Sound recordings offer a rich documentation of the broad scope of American culture. Our national story is incomplete if the audio record of our rich and diverse history is not preserved in the best condition technology allows. I applaud this initiative and wish the Library of Congress success in its mission.”

Michael Feinstein – Performer and member of the Library of Congress National Recording Preservation Board

“While it might appear to be permanent on the surface, our national recorded heritage is one of the most endangered mediums. Even though people love their music, they assume that because something exists in multiple copies that it is safe from the ravages of time, but we are now keenly aware of the rush to save so much popular music, historical events and singular sound documents, that the mind boggles. Due to the single minded dedication of Dr. James Billington, The Librarian of Congress, we are for the first time truly tackling ways to save our sounds. The formation of the NRPB and the research and studies we are creating with the Library make it possible to accomplish our goal, single mindedly, one step at a time. The massive nature of this project is one that could only be undertaken with the help and support of our government working at it's best, because this is an ongoing project that will extend long past our lifetimes. Working with many other public and private institutions is a major part of the task, to combine our knowledge and resources for our common goal. As the public becomes more educated through the annual registry plus the release of information and studies, the awareness that is essential for our mission becomes more possible. For the millions who love music and care about our recorded heritage with a wish to save it, this is an exciting and remarkable time because together we will make a true difference. With the advent of all the technology that rules our lives, we can now use it to save, disseminate and make available to everyone the

aural document of who we are, where we have come from and where we are going. And everyone will benefit from it for a long, long time.”

George Massenburg, Audio Engineering Society and member of the Library of Congress National Recording Preservation Board

“The worldwide professional audio community as represented by the Audio Engineering Society unites audio engineers, creative artists, scientists and students by promoting advances in audio and disseminating new knowledge and research. In this crafting of advanced methodologies and practices in recorded sound it is essential to measure build on our knowledge with regard to the enduring historical legacy of almost a century and a half of recorded sound history, and to do so with care, esteem and respect. The importance of preserving and making accessible this legacy cannot be overstated. It is one of the AES's fundamental passions and purposes to further best practices in preservation and archiving and, ultimately, to make these priceless assets publicly accessible. To us The National Recording Preservation Plan is the embodiment of that common effort.”

Neil Portnow, President/CEO, The Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation

“Broad areas of America’s recorded sound heritage, dating from the 19th century to the present, have suffered serious losses due to neglect, technical obsolescence and deterioration. The recommendations for action in the Library of Congress National Recording Preservation Plan are the result of a collaborative effort by private and public sector stakeholders from around the country who believe that preserving a comprehensive record of our nation’s recorded sound heritage for future generations is a vital interest of the United States. As a member of the National Recording Preservation Board and a longtime funder of recording preservation projects, The Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation support the objectives of the National Plan and are committed to working in partnership with the Library of Congress and others to implement its important recommendations.”

Stephen Sondheim – Composer

“As a composer who has been both informed and influenced by sound recordings, I feel passionately that they are a heritage too easily lost, and one which requires all due diligence to preserve. The Library of Congress National Preservation Recording Plan represents our best and most thoughtful chance to preserve the country’s musical creativity. It is important to remember that not only do recordings capture individual performances and arrangements but also a great deal of music which was never written down. Once the recordings are lost, the work itself disappears forever. This is a Plan that must be implemented if we are to keep our musical history alive and available.”

Paul Williams, President, American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers

“Songs and music are one of the greatest expressions of a nation's culture. Preserving them through sound recordings, which capture the spirit of a time, is important work. The National Recording Preservation Plan is needed to ensure we have a coordinated plan to preserve our cultural legacy.”